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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Wadebridge Rural District
Council

FOR THE YEAR 1947

BODMIN.

PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.



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TO THE WADEBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1947.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—88,064.

Population—13,380.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1947 according to the rate books—5,176.

Rateable value—£66,245.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£278-18-4.

Social Conditions.

The district is an agricultural one especially suitable for dairying and cattle raising which are its chief industries.

There is a flourishing china clay industry which employs a number of men.

One of its chief industries is the catering for visitors and holiday makers, its long coast line with cliff scenery and sundry coves having a great attraction.

The town of Wadebridge centrally situated on the banks of the river Camel is a residential one. It has a large weekly Cattle Market and is a good shopping centre for the surrounding district.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

	M.	F.	Total
Live births	138	135	273
Legitimate	121	126	247
Illegitimate	17	9	26

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population— 20·4

	M.	F.	Total
Still births	2	5	7
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 of the population—0·5

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—

	M.	F.	Total
	8	1	9
Legitimate	7	1	8
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Death rate per 1,000 live births—32·9

Congenital debility and premature births were the chief causes of death

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	96	91	187

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—13·9.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, or of children under two years of age from Diarrhœa.

There were no deaths from Puerpural Sepsis or of other Maternal causes.

The chief causes of death were—

		M.	F.	Total
Cancer	...	13	12	25
Heart disease	...	22	33	55
Cerebral Hæmorrhage		10	9	19
Nephritis	...	6	2	8
Bronchitis	...	1	3	4
Pneumonia	7	3	10

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those for England and Wales :—

		England and Wales	
Birth rate	...	20·4	20·5
Death rate	...	13·2	12·0
Infantile death rate		32·9	41

General Provision of Health Services.

Medical Officer of Health—J. H. Hobling (part time Officer) who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bodmin, Public Vaccinator and Examining Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—A. E. J. Bewes.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—R. N. Spiers.

These are both full-time Officers and hold the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is a Motor Ambulance kept in Wadebridge for use in cases of accidents and non-infectious cases.

For infectious cases the County Council have Motor Ambulances stationed in Truro and are available day or night

Hospitals.

There is no Hospital in the district but Hospital treatment is available at the Bodmin and East Cornwall Hospital, the Royal Infirmary, Truro, and the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth.

For infectious cases there is the County Isolation Hospital, Truro.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is the ruling authority. There is a centre in Wadebridge which serves the town and surrounding district.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There were no epidemics and no schools were closed on account of infectious diseases.

There were no cases of Diphtheria.

Children are immunized free of cost at the Welfare Centre, or at the Doctor's Surgery by arrangement.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Sewerage.

One extension has been made to the existing sewer during the year. This extension serves twelve of the eighteen new houses at Wellington Place, Wadebridge.

Drainage.

Numerous property owners have had building licenses granted for the addition of sanitary accommodation. In the majority of instances this has necessitated the laying of drains and construction of cesspits all of which have been examined and tested. Considerable difficulty is being experienced chiefly at Boarding houses and catering establishments regarding the satisfactory disposal of soil and waste water where sewers do not exist. The cesspit emptier when delivered may relieve the situation.

Rural Housing Survey.

Parish.	No. of houses.	Categories.				
		1	2	3	4	5
St. Breock	182	8	34	32	80	28
Cardinham	135	1	23	35	60	16
St. Eval	63	5	16	10	22	10
St. Ervan	100	3	31	16	21	29
Helland	62	6	2	13	34	7
St. Issey	176	6	53	32	62	23
Lanhydrock	42	0	16	19	7	0
Lanivet	337	9	98	72	123	39
St. Mabyn	186	54	49	17	24	42
St. Tudy	118	10	20	44	27	17
Withiel	89	3	19	12	48	7
St. Minver Highlands	211	62	26	25	38	60
Egloshayle	123	1	26	24	60	12
St. Mabyn	121	14	16	32	37	22
St. Minver Lowlands	182	59	39	31	28	25

The survey of the Parishes of Blisland, Wadebride, St. Endellion and St. Kew has yet to be made.

Refuse Collection.

A new Dennis refuse collection lorry has been delivered and another is on order. Two lorries have

been employed on household refuse and salvage collection throughout the year.

Meat Inspection.

The condition of the Ministry of Food slaughter house is not satisfactory and has not been improved, although a considerable number of animals are slaughtered there. During the year 966 cattle, 2,949 sheep, 962 calves and 150 pigs carcasses have been examined.

Milk and Dairies.

Milk production has maintained its popularity throughout the year, many new comers having made application for milk selling contracts. Their premises in each case have been visited and inspected and advice given where alterations and improvements were required.

Inspection of the various premises covered by the Factories Act, 1939, has been carried on throughout the year.

Rodent Control.

The Council continues to employ a Rodent Control Officer who carries out systematic treatment throughout the year.

Foreshores.

The cleanliness of the beaches and maintenance of life saving apparatus have remained the responsibility of the Council and have been regularly supervised and kept in good condition.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year.**

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Total Deaths.
Whooping Cough	13	0
Measles	45	0
Pneumonia	4	10
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1
Erysipelas	1	0

Tuberculosis.

Age period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total—	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

There were five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
4 males and 1 female.

No action was taken under the Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis engaged in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.

